



BUDGET WEEK UPDATE

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

18 July 2006

Week of 17 July 2006

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

- Bill:** *Marriage Protection Amendment* (H.J.Res. 88). 
- Committee:** Judiciary
- Summary:** This legislation proposes an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage. Under the resolution, marriage shall consist only of the union between a man and woman. No constitution, Federal or State, is to be construed to require that marriage or its legal implications apply to any union other than the union of a man and a woman.
- Cost:** An official cost estimate was not available, but this legislation is not expected to have an impact on the Federal budget.
- Budget Act:** Enacting this legislation does not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
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- Bill:** *Pledge Protection Act of 2005* (H.R. 2389). 
- Committee:** Judiciary
- Summary:** This bill denies jurisdiction to any Federal court, including the Supreme Court, to hear or decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of the Pledge of Allegiance or its validity under the Constitution. It exempts any court established by Congress under its power to make needful rules and regulations with respect to the territory of the United States; the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.
- Cost:** An official cost estimate was not available, but this legislation is not expected to have a significant impact on the Federal budget.
- Budget Act:** Enacting this bill will not violate the Congressional Budget Act.
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- Bill:** *United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act* (H.R. 5684). 
- Committee:** Ways and Means
- Summary:** This bill approves the free trade agreement between the governments of the United States and Oman that was entered into on 19 January 2006. The bill authorizes the

(continued on next page)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. *Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.*

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

President to proclaim actions necessary to ensure appropriate implementation of the agreement, and also authorizes other officers of the U.S. government to issue regulations for that purpose. The act takes effect on the date the agreement enters into force (which is still subject to Senate approval). It provides for administration of dispute settlement proceedings, arbitration of claims against the United States covered by the agreement, and specified tariff modifications. In addition, it prescribes requirements for enforcement of textile and apparel rules of origin, reliquidation of certain entries, actions for relief from imports benefitting from the agreement, and certain textile and apparel safeguard measures.

Cost: The Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting the bill would reduce revenue by \$15 million in 2007, by \$111 million over the 2007-11 period, and by \$271 million over the 2007-16 period. The measure also would increase direct spending by \$1 million in 2007 and \$6 million over the 2007-11 period. The increase in direct spending is due to a provision in the bill that exempts from customs user fees goods that qualify as "originating goods." Such fees are recorded as offsetting receipts, a credit against direct spending. The bill defines an "originating good" as 1) a good imported directly from the territory of Oman into the territory of the United States, or vice versa; and 2) one that is entirely the growth, product, or manufacture of Oman, the United States, or both countries. In addition, the bill would increase discretionary spending by less than \$1 million per year, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Budget Act: This bill violates section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act because it increases direct spending by an amount expected to exceed the allocation of direct spending to the Committee on Ways and Means provided pursuant to H.Con.Res. 376, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2007.

This bill is being considered under a fast-track procedure, under which the House is required to vote on the measure as submitted by the President. Therefore, the House does not have discretion to modify the bill to eliminate the costs or to offset them with savings elsewhere.